

Sinclair Broadcasting's recent decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Because Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. What is good for the public interest is educating the public about issues that matter and providing substantive news coverage, not preempting the programming the public relies on with unbalanced partisan rhetoric aimed at swinging the election.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.